

To: Boston School Committee  
 From: Mary Skipper, Superintendent  
 Date: January 10, 2024  
 Subject: Updated Exam School Admissions Policy Modification Recommendation

[Attached](#) you will find my final recommendation regarding a minor modification to the Exam School Admissions Policy, to go into effect beginning in the 2024-25 admissions cycle. This recommendation fully maintains the spirit of the policy – recognizing the impact that a student’s socioeconomic background has on their educational opportunities, and leveling the playing field between students from different tiers. We previously have shared two memos on this topic from [November 1](#) and [December 13](#).

If approved by a vote of the School Committee, this policy shall remain in place unless and until a new policy is adopted by the School Committee.

- Additional points will be differentiated by socioeconomic tier, and will be equal to the differential in each tier between the average composite score (before any applicable additional points) of students who attend a school where 40% or more of the student population is economically disadvantaged and students who attend a school where less than 40% of the students who attend are economically disadvantaged (for SY 24-25 admissions cycle, see the chart below for exact points by tier)
- This year, the number of additional points by tier will be determined by using the average composite scores from 2023-24 admissions cycle. In future years, the number of additional points by tier will be determined by using a multi-year average of the average composite scores.
- The number of additional points for students who attend a school where 40% or more of the student population is economically disadvantaged shall not exceed 10 additional points.
- The recommended modifications do not affect the 15 additional points currently awarded to students who are: experiencing homelessness; in the care of the Department of Children and Families; or living in Boston Housing Authority-owned housing.

<b>Tier</b>	<b>Additional Points (for the SY24-25 Admissions Cycle)</b>
Tier 1	8
Tier 2	10
Tier 3	9
Tier 4	5
Tier 5	4
Tier 6	8
Tier 7	4
Tier 8	2

As a follow up to the December 13th, 2023 School Committee meeting, we reviewed the average differential composite score by tier for both 9th and 10th grade. Because of the small number of 9th and 10th grade applicants attending schools where 40% or more of the student population is economically disadvantaged, the point differential varied widely across tiers. Therefore, I am recommending for the SY 24-25 admissions cycle, that we apply the average composite score point differentials for 7th grade applicants to both 9th and 10th grade applicants.

We also reviewed the impact this policy modification has on economically disadvantaged students currently attending a school that does not receive points.

During the SY23-24 admissions cycle, 29 economically disadvantaged students received 0 additional points: 16 of those 29 students received an invitation to an exam school. Under the simulation using the modified tier point differential:

- 19 of the 29 economically disadvantaged students would receive an invitation to an exam school
  - 16 of these 19 students previously received an invitation and continue to receive an invitation
  - 3 additional students would get an invitation to an exam school
  - 3 of the 16 students would now receive an invitation to their first choice exam school
- 10 of the 29 students still would not receive an invitation

There was also an analysis regarding **students who were not identified as economically disadvantaged but who received 10 points** based on the school they attended in the year prior to admission. There were 408 students who were not identified as economically disadvantaged who received 10 points during the SY23-24 admissions cycle. 351 of those students received an invitation to an exam school. Under the simulation using the modified tier point differential:

- 30 of the 351 students would no longer receive an invitation to an exam school
- No new students who are not identified as economically disadvantaged and who attend a school where more than 40% of the student population is economically disadvantaged would receive an invitation.

	7th Grade Minimum Composite Score					
	Actual Invites SY23-24			Tier Differential		
Tier	BLS	BLA	OB	BLS	BLA	OB
1	83.7	68.7	67.8	82.7	67.7	66.8
2	86.1	71.8	64.8	87.1	72.8	65.8
3	73.5	69.1	68	77.1	68.1	67
4	83.8	75.7	71.3	82	70.8	70.4
5	86	74.2	71.1	81.3	68.2	66.8
6	94.4	87.8	86.7	93	85.8	85.4
7	100.2	97.5	97.2	97.9	95.2	95.1
8	99.1	97.4	97.1	97.6	96.1	95.3